

REMARKS

In response to a telephonic interview with the Examiner on December 16, 2004 (summarized in the Interview Summary dated December 20, 2004), Applicant submits herewith supplemental claim amendments to comply with the Examiner's comments.

During the telephonic interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 39 were duplicate claims, and that the wording of claim 36 was awkward. Therefore, Applicant submits this Supplemental Amendment to address the Examiner's concerns.

Both claims 22 and 39 were amended to include an additional limitation so as to differentiate these claims, and claim 36 was amended to clarify the claimed invention.

November 30, 2004 Amendment:

In the Examiner's Interview Summary dated December 20, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the November 30, 2004 Amendment was not entered, because of the outstanding issues regarding the claims.

However, in view of this Supplemental Amendment, Applicant submits that the claims are all now in condition for allowance.

As such, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and enter both the Amendment filed on November 30, 2004 and this Supplemental Amendment, as the combination of these amendments places the claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

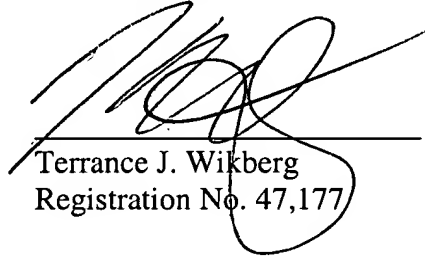
SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Application Number: 09/987,673

Our Ref: A8126
Art Unit: 1734

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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